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VIKINGS: BEYOND THE LEGEND SAILS INTO THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE THIS WEEKEND WITH 600 ARTIFACTS, THREE REPLICA VIKING SHIPS INCLUDING THE RECREATED *Roskilde 6*

16,000 square foot exhibition explores the Viking Age through 600 artifacts, reconstructed ships, interactive components, and augmented reality experiences that go beyond the legend to reveal who these influential explorers were, and their lasting impact on our modern world.

PHILADELPHIA October 10, 2018—[Vikings: Beyond the Legend](#), an interactive exhibition that explores the people, traditions, and influence of the legendary Viking Age, makes its North American debut at [The Franklin Institute](#) on October 13.

The exhibition reveals fresh insights through the latest archaeological discoveries that show the evolution of Vikings, providing a more accurate portrayal of them as skilled artisans, farmers, traders, and explorers who made a significant impact on our modern world.

Featuring more than 600 treasured artifacts on loan from the National Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen, dramatic ship reconstructions, interactive experiences, striking multimedia, and all-new augmented reality—the exhibit takes visitors beyond the legend to convey the true story of the voyagers who set sail from Scandinavia centuries ago.

The 122-foot recreated *Roskilde 6*, surrounded by a striking multimedia sound and light show, and augmented reality interactives—is the centerpiece of the new exhibition, dominating the 10,000 square foot Mandell Center. Dating back to c. 1025, and excavated in 1997—Philadelphia marks only the second time the recreated ship is on display outside of Europe, and the first with added multimedia and interactive augmented reality components.

“The Vikings have captivated imaginations all across the world and conquered popular culture. Their impact on transportation, navigation, politics, warfare, language and the map over the course of history was enormous,” said **Larry Dubinski, President and CEO of The Franklin Institute**. “*Vikings* is a spectacular exhibition that uncovers not only who these explorers really were but also showcases their cultural influence and achievements revealed through some fascinating recent archaeological discoveries. This is an exceptional collection of artifacts and experiences that will certainly satisfy our modern-day fascination with the Viking culture.”

The exhibition is comprised of seven sections featuring exquisite artifacts balanced with interactive technology and immersive environments, including:

- 600 archaeological finds on loan from the National Museum of Denmark, many which have never before been on display in North America.
- A reconstruction of the *Roskilde 6* using 25% of the original, preserved planks.
- The full-size 21-foot replica ship *Joanna*, meticulously reconstructed by skilled curators using the same shipbuilding techniques and materials used in the Viking Age.

- A “ghost ship” represented by a sculpture of hanging iron replica rivets from a burial ship, on display to show how archeologists were able to discern the shape/size of the ship from the rivets found during the excavations.
- A full-scale replica of the Jelling Rune Stone often called Denmark’s birth certificate.
- Elaborate jewelry and coins
- Unique artifacts like “Thor’s hammer”, Ulfberht swords, the Hevring Flak rudder—and other striking examples of the work of highly skilled craftspeople who creatively used textiles, wood, metal, bone, leather, glass, and ceramics to create pieces for domestic life, ornamentation, and battle.
- Hands-on activities about everyday life, traditional clothing, the rune alphabet, and Viking games.
- Interactive components including an opportunity to lift a precise replica of a Viking Age sword to feel its weight and balance, and all new for Philadelphia—an augmented reality rowing experience where visitors use a physical replica oar and test their ability to maintain the rowing cadence necessary to move a Viking ship.

Vikings: Beyond the Legend is a joint venture between and produced by The National Museum of Denmark and MuseumsPartner in Austria.

The Franklin Institute is proud to present *Vikings: Beyond the Legend* in the Nicholas and Athena Karabots Pavilion and in the Mandell Center from October 13 through March 3, 2019. To complement the exhibition, the film *Vikings* will be showing in the Tuttleman IMAX® Theater.

Vikings: Beyond the Legend / October 13, 2018-March 3, 2019

Daytime Tickets

Daily: 9:30am-5pm (last entry at 3:30pm)

Includes General Admission to The Franklin Institute

Adults \$35.00; Children (ages 3-11) \$31.00

Evening Tickets

Thursday-Saturday: 5pm-8pm (last entry at 6:30pm)

Does *not* include General Admission to The Franklin Institute

Adults \$20.00; Children (ages 3-11) \$15.00

Notes to Editors:

- High-resolution photos are available at the [press site](#) on The Franklin Institute’s website.

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

Located in the heart of Philadelphia, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. Pennsylvania’s most visited museum, it is dedicated to creating a passion for learning about science by offering access to hands-on science education. For more information, visit www.fi.edu and follow The Franklin Institute on Twitter @TheFranklin and Instagram @FranklinInstitute, hashtag #franklininstitute.